Rajya Sabha on 28th August, 1993 and state:

(a) whether all complex issues involved in launching prosecution against M|s. ITC Ltd. Calcutta have since been cleared and prosecution launched;

(b) if not, how much time the Excise Department would take to get all the complex issues cleared and by when the prosecution would be launched; and

(c) whether there is any dicision taken by Government not to launch prosecution against the tax evaders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) All complex issues on launching prosecution against M/s. I.T.C. Ltd. have not been cleared and hence prosecution not launched.

(b) The matter is under active consideration and all necessary steps are being taken. It is not possible to indicate a definite time frame as, apart from legal issues involved, voluminous records of different Collectorates of Central Excise pertaining to several years have to be sorted out.

(c) No, Sir.

Reduction the import/customs duty on Printing Machines

2690. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 858 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 1st March, 1994 and state:

(a) whether Government recognise the singular and consistent role played by the print media, as a mass, media of political and social awarness and emancipation;

(b) why the newspaper industry's and as for reliefs were earlier ignored whereas Government are going all out to promote the electronic media with incentives and an open air policy; and

(c) whether Government would now consider, in tune with the liberalisation process now under way, decontrolling the newsprint by rescinding the newsprint control Order, 1962 and also substantially reduce the import|customs duty on printing machinery and other consumables?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Preferential treatment to foreign investors

2691. SHRI INDER KUAR GUJRAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 93 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 22nd February, 1994 and state:

(a) whether he has taken note of a spurt in the shares recently;

(b) whether Government have stipulated any lock-in-period for investment;

(c) the taxation imposed on profits made by the foreign investors and the Indian inaestors; and

(d) whether the foreign investors are given some preferential treatment in the regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.